

## Aesthetics and Presentation in Byzantine Literature, Art, and Music

### Dumbarton Oaks Symposium 1996

The annual symposium took place May 3–5, 1996, under the direction of Professor John Duffy of Harvard University. In their papers, the seventeen invited speakers examined a wide range of religious and secular works from the sixth to the fourteenth century. The primary aim of the symposium was to focus on the artistic side of cultural and religious expression conveyed through the media of the written word, art objects, and sacred music. The speakers analyzed the various elements of form, presentation, and style that were employed to enhance communication, to produce some kind of pleasurable experience for the eye and ear, to uplift the soul, and to stimulate the imagination. The occasion provided an opportunity to highlight the matter of artistic appreciation and to explore some issues of Byzantine aesthetics.

#### Program

##### Devotional Literature and Book Illustration

Chair: John Duffy

John Duffy, Harvard University

Embellishing the Steps: Elements of Presentation and Style in the *Heavenly Ladder* of John Climacus

Elizabeth Jeffreys, Oxford University

The Letters and Homilies of James of Kokkinobaphos: A Stylistic Oddity?

Jeffrey C. Anderson, George Washington University

The Illustrated Sermons of James the Monk and the Courtly Art of Byzantium

##### Sacred Music and Poetry

Chairs: C. P. Jones and Angeliki Laiou

Alice-Mary Talbot, Dumbarton Oaks

Epigrams in Context: Metrical Inscriptions on Art and Architecture in the Palaiologan Era

Christian Hannick, University of Würzburg

Exégèse, typologie et rhétorique dans l'hymnographie byzantine

Ihor Ševčenko, Harvard University

Epigrams, Miniatures, and Ivories

Kenneth Levy, Princeton University

Byzantine Melodes and Musical Styles

Icons and Reliquaries  
Chair: Ioli Kalavrezou

Nancy Ševčenko  
The Vita Icon and the Painter as Hagiographer

Cynthia Hahn, Florida State University  
Saints, Stories, and the Sacred: The Discourse of Relics in the Medieval West

Profane Literature  
Chair: Elizabeth Jeffreys

Margaret Alexiou, Harvard University  
Ploys of Performance: Games and Play in the Prodromic Poems

Panagiotis Agapitos, University of Cyprus  
“You only live twice”: Dreams and the Spatial Aesthetics of Narrative Presentation in *Livistros* and *Rhodamne*

Histories and Saints’ Lives  
Chair: Antony Littlewood

David Frendo, University College Cork  
Three Authors in Search of a Reader: The Aesthetics of Direct Discourse in Procopius, Agathias, and Theophylact Simocatta

Tomas Hägg, University of Bergen  
Photius as a Reader of Hagiography: Selection and Criticism

Alexander Kazhdan and Lee Sherry, Dumbarton Oaks  
Leo of Catania and Heliodorus

Letters, Ekphraseis, Art, and Literature  
Chair: Alice-Mary Talbot

Antony Littlewood, University of Western Ontario  
The Letter of Consolation

Ruth Webb, King’s College, London/Princeton University  
The Aesthetics of Sacred Space: Narrative, Metaphor, and Motion in Ekphraseis of Church Buildings

Henry Maguire, Dumbarton Oaks  
The Profane Aesthetic in Byzantine Art and Literature

Conclusion: John Duffy, Harvard University